

FIS

- I find, quoth Mat, reproof is vain!
Who first offend, will first complain. *Pri. v.*
3. Highest in dignity.
Three presidents, of whom Daniel was first. *Dan.*
First with the dogs, and king among the squires. *Spec.*
4. Great; excellent.
My first son,
Where will you go? Take good Cominius
With thee. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*
- FIRST. *adv.*
1. Before any thing else; earliest.
He, not unmindful of his usual art,
First in dissembled fire attempts to part;
Then roaring beasts and running streams he tries. *Dryden.*
Thy praise, and thine was then the publick voice,
First recommended Quiscard to my choice. *Dryden.*
Heav'n, sure, has kept this spot of earth uncurst,
To shew how all things were created first. *Prior.*
2. Before any other consideration.
First, metals are more durable than plants; secondly, they
are more solid and hard; thirdly, they are wholly subterranean;
whereas plants are part above earth, and part under the
earth. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 603.*
3. It has often at before it, and means at the beginning.
At first the silent venom slid with ease,
And seiz'd her cooler senses by degrees. *Dryden's Æn.*
Excepting fish and insects, there are very few or no crea-
tures that can provide for themselves at first, without the
assistance of parents. *Bentley's Sermons.*
4. FIRST or last. At one hour or other.
But sure a general doom on man is past,
And all are fools and lovers first or last. *Dryden.*
- FIRST-BEGOT. *n. f.* [from *first* and *begot*.] The eldest
FIRST-BORN. *n. f.* [from *first* and *born*.] Eldest; the first by
the order of nativity.
Last, with one midnight stroke, all the first-born
Of Egypt must lie dead. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xii.*
Hail, holy light, offspring of heav'n first-born! *Milton.*
The first-born has not a sole or peculiar right, by any law
of God and nature; the younger children having an equal
title with him. *Locke.*
- FIRST-FRUIT. *n. f.* [from *first* and *fruits*.]
1. What the season first produces or matures of any kind.
A sweaty reaper from his tillage brought
First-fruits, the green ear, and the yellow sheaf. *Milt. P. L.*
The blooming hopes of my then very young patron have
been confirmed by most noble first-fruits, and his life is going
on towards a plentiful harvest of all accumulated virtues. *Prior.*
2. The first profits of any thing.
Although the king loved to employ and advance bishops,
because, having rich bishopricks, they carried their reward upon
themselves; yet he did use to raise them by steps, that he
might not lose the profit of the first-fruits, which by that
course of gradation was multiplied. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
3. The earliest effect of any thing.
See, Father, what first-fruits on earth are sprung,
From thy implanted grace in man! *Milton's Parad. Lost.*
- FIRSTLING. *adj.* [from *first*.] That which is first produced
or brought forth.
All the firstling males that come of thy herd, and of thy
flock, thou shalt sanctify unto the Lord thy God. *Deutr. xv.*
- FIRSTLING. *n. f.* [from *first*.]
1. The first produce or offspring.
A shepherd next,
More meek, came with the firstlings of his flock,
Choicest and best. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xi.*
The tender firstlings of my woolly breed,
Shall on his holy altar often bleed. *Dryden's Virg. Post.*
The firstlings of the flock are doom'd to die;
Rich fragrant wines the cheering bowl supply. *Pope's Odyss.*
2. The thing first thought of or done.
Our play
Leaps o'er the vault and firstlings of these broils,
Ginning it th' middle. *Shakes. Troil. and Cress. Prologue.*
The flighty purpose works o'erlook,
Unless the deed go with it: from this moment,
The very firstlings of my heart shall be
The firstlings of my hand. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
- FISCAL. *n. f.* [from *fiscus*, a treasury, Latin.] Exchequer;
revenue.
War, as it is entertained by diet, so can it not be long
maintained by the ordinary fiscal receipt. *Bacon.*
- FISH. *n. f.* [from *fish*, Saxon; *visch*, Dutch.] An animal that
inhabits the water.
The beasts, the fishes, and the winged fowls,
Are their males subjects. *Shakes. Comedy of Errors.*
I fight when I cannot chuse, and I eat no fish. *Sh. K. Lear.*

FIS

- And now the fish ignoble fates escape,
Since Venus ow'd her safety to their shape. *Crash.*
There are fishes, that have wings, that are not strangers to
the airy region; and there are some birds that are inhabitants
of the water, whose blood is cold as fishes; and their flesh is
so like in taste, that the scrupulous are allowed them on fish-
days. *Locke.*
- TO FISH. *v. n.*
1. To be employed in catching fishes.
2. To endeavour at any thing by artifice.
I, with great truth, catch meir simplicity. *Shakespeare.*
- TO FISH. *v. a.* To search water in quest of fish, or any thing
else.
Some have fished the very jakes for papers left there by men
of wit. *Swift.*
Oft, as he fish'd her nether realms for wit,
The goddess favour'd him, and favours yet. *Pope's Dunciad.*
- FISH-HOOK. *n. f.* [from *fish* and *hook*.] A hook baited, with which
fish are caught.
A sharp point, bended upward and backward, like a fish-
hook. *Gray's Museum.*
- FISH-POND. *n. f.* [from *fish* and *pond*.] A small pool for fish.
Fish-ponds are no small improvement of warty boggy
lands. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
Fish-ponds were made where former forests grew,
And hills were level'd to extend the view. *Prior.*
After what I have said of the great value the Romans put
upon fishes, it will not appear incredible that C. Hirrius should
sell his fish-ponds for quadrages H. S. 32,291 l. 13 s. 4 d.
Arbutnot on Coins.
- FISHER. *n. f.* [from *fish*.] One who is employed in catching
fish.
In our fight the three were taken up
By fishermen of Corinth, as we thought:
At length another had seiz'd on us,
And would have reft the fishes of their prey,
Had not they been very flow of sail. *Shakes. Comedy of Err.*
We know that town is but with fishes taught,
Where Theseus govern'd and where Plato taught. *Sandys.*
Left he should suspect it, draw it from him,
As fishes do the bait, to make him follow it. *Denham.*
A soldier now he with his coat appears;
A fisher now, his trembling angle bears;
Each shape he varies. *Pope.*
- FISHERBOAT. *n. f.* [from *fisher* and *boat*.] A boat employed in
catching fish.
- FISHERMAN. *n. f.* [from *fisher* and *man*.] One whose employment
and livelihood is to catch fish.
How fearful
And dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low!
The fishermen that walk upon the beach
Appear like mice. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
At length two monsters of unequal size,
Hard by the shore, a fisherman espies. *Waller.*
Do scales and fins bear price to this excess?
You might have bought the fisherman for less. *Dryd. Juven.*
- FISHERTOWN. *n. f.* [from *fisher* and *town*.] A town inhabited by
fishermen.
Others of them, in that time, burned that fisher town
Mouchole. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*
- FISHING. *n. f.* [from *fish*.] The business of catching fish.
Lime in Dorsetshire, a little fisher town. *Clarendon, b. vii.*
- FISHERS-COAT. *n. f.* [from *fisher* and *coat*.] A coat worn by a
fisher.
When Simon-Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his
fishers-coat unto him, for he was naked, and did cast himself
into the sea. *Jo. xxi. 7.*
- FISHERY. *n. f.* [from *fisher*.] The business of catching fish.
We shall have plenty of mackerel this season: our fishery
will not be disturbed by privateers. *Addison's Spectator.*
- FISHFUL. *adj.* [from *fish*.] Abounding with fish; stored with
fish.
Thus mean in state, and calm in spirit,
My fishy pond is my delight. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*
It is walled and guarded with the ocean, most commodious
for traffick to all parts of the world, and watered with plea-
sant, fishy and navigable rivers. *Camden's Remains.*
- TO FISHY. *v. a.* [from *fish*.] To turn to fish: a cant
word.
Here comes Romeo.
—Without his roe, like a dried herring:
O flesh, flesh, how art thou fishy! *Shak. Rom. and Juliet.*
- FISHING. *n. f.* [from *fish*.] Commodity of taking fish.
There also would be planted a good town, having both a
good haven and a plentiful fishing. *Spenser on Ireland.*
- FISHKETTLE. *n. f.* [from *fish* and *kettle*.] A caldron made long
for the fish to be boiled without bending.
It is probable that the way of embalming amongst the Egyp-
tians was by boiling the body, in a long caldron like a fish-
kettle, in some kind of liquid balsam. *Gray's Museum.*
- FISHMEAL.

FIT

- FISHMEAL. *n. f.* [from *fish* and *meal*.] Diet of fish; abstemious
diet.
Thin drink doth overcool their blood, and making many
fishmeals, they fall into a kind of male greenickness. *Sharp.*
- FISHMONGER. *n. f.* [from *fish*.] A dealer in fish; a seller of
fish.
I fear to play the fishmonger; and yet so large a commodity
may not pass in silence. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*
The surgeon left the fishmonger to determine the controversy
between him and the pike. *L'Estrange.*
- FISHY. *adj.* [from *fish*.]
1. Consisting of fish.
My absent mates
Roam the wild ile in search of rural cates,
Bait the barb'd steel, and from the fishy flood
Appeal th' afflictive fierce desire of food. *Pope's Odyss.*
2. Having the qualities of fish.
Few eyes have escaped the picture of mermaids, that is,
according to Horace, a monster with a woman's head above,
and fishy extremity below. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- FISSELE. *adj.* [from *fissile*, Latin.] Having the grain in a certain
direction, so as to be cleft.
This crystal is a pellucid fissile stone, clear as water or crystal
of the rock, and without colour; enduring a red heat without
losing its transparency, and in a very strong heat calcining
without fusion. *Newton's Opt.*
- FISSELE. *n. f.* from *fissile*. The quality of admitting to be
cleft.
- FISURE. *n. f.* [from *fissura*, Latin; *fissure*, French.] A cleft; a
narrow chasm where a breach has been made.
The stone and other terrestrial matter was distinguished
into strata or layers, as it is in England: those strata were
divided by parallel fissures, that were inclosed in the
stone. *Woodward's Natural History.*
- I see
The gaping fissures to receive the rain. *Thomson's Autumn.*
- TO FISURE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To cleave; to make a
fissure.
By a fall or blow the skull may be fissured or fractured. *Wife.*
- FIST. *n. f.* [from *fist*, Saxon.] The hand clenched with the fin-
gers doubled down, in order to give a blow, or keep hold.
She quick and proud, and who did Pas despise,
Up with her fist, and took him on the face;
Another time, quoth she, become more wife;
Thus Pas did kiss her hand with little grace. *Sidney.*
And being down, the villain fore did beat
And bruise with clownish fists his manly face. *Fairy Queen.*
Anger causeth paleness in some; in others trembling,
swelling, foaming at the mouth, stamping, and bending the
fist. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 716.*
And the same hand into a fist may clofe,
Which instantly a palm expanded shows. *Denham.*
Tyrreus, the foster-father of the beast,
Then clench'd a hatchet in his horny fist. *Dryden's Æn.*
- TO FIST. *v. a.*
1. To strike with the fist.
I saw him furning and fisting her most unmercifully. *Dryd.*
2. To gripe with the fist.
We have been down together in my sleep,
Unbuckling helms, fisting each other's throat,
And wak'd half dead with nothing. *Shakes. Coriolanus.*
- FISTINUT. *n. f.* A pistachio nut.
- FISTICUFFS. *n. f.* [from *fist* and *cuff*.] Battle with the fist; blows
with the fist.
Naked men belabouring one another with snagged sticks,
or dully falling together by the ears at fistcuffs. *More.*
She would seize upon John's commons; for which they
were sure to go to fistcuffs. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*
My invention and judgment are perpetually at fistcuffs, till
they have quite disabled each other. *Swift.*
- FISTULA. *n. f.* [Latin; *fistula*, French.]
1. A sinuous ulcer callous within; any sinuous ulcer.
That fistula which is recent is the easiest of cure: those of
a long continuance are accompanied with ulcerations of the
gland and caries in the bone. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
2. FISTULA Lacrimalis. A disorder of the canals leading
from the eye to the nose, which obstructs the natural progress
of the tears, and makes them trickle down the cheek; but
this is only the first and mildest stage of the disease: in the
next there is matter discharged with the tears from the puncta
lacrimalia, and sometimes from an orifice broke through the
skin between the nose and angle of the eye. The last
and worst degree of it is when the matter of the eye, by its long
continuance, has not only corroded the neighbouring soft
parts, but also affected the subjacent bone. *Sharp's Surgery.*
- FISTULAR. *adj.* [from *fistula*.] Hollow like a pipe.
- FISTULOUS. *adj.* [from *fistula*; *fistuleux*, French.] Having
the nature of a fistula; callous or sinuous like a fistula.
How these sinuous ulcers become fistulous, I have shewn
you. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
- FIT. *n. f.* [from *fight*, Skinner, every fit of a disease being a
struggle of nature; from *vit*, in Flemish, frequent, *Junius*.]
4

FIT

1. A paroxysm or exacerbation of any intermittent distemper.
Small stones and gravel collect and become very large in
the kidneys, in which case a fit of the stone in that part is the
cure. *Sharp's Surgery.*
2. Any short return after intermission; interval.
Sometimes 'tis grateful to the rich to try
A short vicissitude, and fit of poverty. *Dryden's Horace.*
Men that are habitually wicked may now and then, by fits
and starts, feel certain motions of repentance. *L'Estrange.*
By fits, my swelling grief appears,
In rising sighs and falling tears. *Addison on Italy.*
Thus o'er the dying lamp th' unsteady flame
Hangs quivering on a point, leaps off by fits,
And falls again as loth to quit its hold. *Addison's Cato.*
Religion is not the business of some fits only and intervals
of our life, to be taken up at certain days and hours, and laid
aside for the rest of our time; but a system of precepts to be
regarded in all our conduct. *Rogers's Sermons.*
All fits of pleasure we balanced by an equal degree of pain
or languor: 'tis like spending this year part of the next year's
revenue. *Swift.*
3. Any violent affection of mind or body.
The life did slit away out of her nest,
And all his senses were with deadly fit oppress'd. *Fairy Queen.*
An ambitious man subjects himself to others, and puts it
in the power of every malicious tongue to throw him into a
fit of melancholy. *Addison's Spectator.*
4. Disorder; distemperance.
For your husband,
He's noble, wise, judicious, and best knows
The fits o' th' season. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
5. It is used, without an epithet of discrimination, for the hy-
sterical disorders of women, and the convulsions of children;
and by the vulgar for the epilepsy.
Mrs. Bull was so much enraged, that she fell downright
into a fit. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*
- FIT. *adj.* [written, Flemish, *Junius*.]
1. Qualified; proper: with *for* before the noun, and *to* before
the verb.
Mighty men of valour, fit to go out for war and battle. *Chron. vii. 11.*
He lends him vain Goliath's sacred sword,
The fittest help just fortune could afford. *Cowley's Davideis.*
This fury fit for her intent she chose,
One who delights in wars and human woes. *Dryden's Æn.*
It is a wrong use of my understanding to make it the rule
and measure of another man's; a use which it is neither fit
for, nor capable of. *Locke.*
2. Convenient; meet; proper; right.
Since we have said it were good not to use men of ambi-
tious natures, except it be upon necessity, it is fit we speak in
what cases they are so. *Bacon, Essay 17.*
See how thou could'st judge of fit and meet. *Milt. P. L.*
It is fit for a man to know his own abilities and weak-
nesses, and not think himself obliged to imitate all that he
thinks fit to praise. *Boyle.*
If our forefathers thought fit to be grave and serious, I hope
their posterity may laugh without offence. *Addison.*
- TO FIT. *v. a.* [written, Flemish, *Junius*.]
1. To accommodate to any thing; to suit one thing to another.
The carpenter marketh it out with a line: he fitteth it with
planes. *J. xlv. 13.*
Would fate permit
To my desires I might my fortune fit,
Troy I would raise. *Denham.*
2. To accommodate a person with any thing; as, the tailor fits
his customer.
A trussmaker fitted the child with a pair of boddices, stiffened
on the lame side. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
3. To be adapted to; to suit any thing.
She shall be our messenger to this pautry knight: trust me
I thought on her; she'll fit it. *Shakespeare.*
As much of the stone as was contiguous to the marcasite,
fitted the marcasite so close as if it had been formerly liquid. *Bo.*
4. TO FIT out. To furnish; to equip; to supply with necessa-
ries or decoration.
A play, which if you dare but twice fit out,
You'll all be slander'd, and be thought devout. *Dryden.*
The English fleet could not be paid and manned, and fitted
out, unless we encouraged trade and navigation. *Addison's Freeb.*
5. TO FIT up. To furnish; to make proper for the use or re-
ception of any.
He has fitted up his farm. *Pope to Swift.*
- TO FIT. *v. n.* To be proper; to be fit.
Nor fits it to prolong the heavenly feast,
Timeless, indecent, but retire to rest. *Pope's Odyss. b. iii.*
- FITCH. *n. f.* [A colloquial corruption of *vetch*.] A small kind
of wild pea.
Now is the season
For sowing of fitches, of beans, and of peason. *Tusser.*
- FITCHAT. *n. f.* [from *fitch*, French; *fische*, Dutch.] A stinking
FITCH. } little beast, that robs the henroost and warren.
Skinner